Dear Ian, I'm running this in because it may be a long response to your 12/5. It came here promptly but there is the daily chore of getting each day's orders out by the next day, certain work that had to be done, and I did want to be more than perfunctory...My health: if a few days off would do the trick I'd have hocked something and flown to one of the milder climes to which I've been invited. I am making progress, it is to me too slow (doctor satisfied) and being occupied is not detrimental. Generally it would be good, with me essential. With doctor's OK worked all the time I was in the hospital. Even had the best sipping Scotch I've ever tated (gift college fans) until the staff caught on, slipped me a sleeping pill and half of it disappeared in one night! It is, of course, something not to be fooled with. I'm not disobeying anyorders and I'm not stretching them. I've reoganized my life around this and still function. Flew to a confrontation with Belin and you've seen the results. Held two well-reported news xonferences in Washington to release new material that could stand alone. Made four public appearances. I'me being more careful than the doctor says. I delayed driving to Washington for three times what he said it would take and then found keeping the legs pendant that long knocked me out for 3-4 days. I now do only essential driving and that locally only. That is no problem. No, I'm following orders, being careful, but also not being overwhelmed. I'm functioning and fairly effeciently and I think effectively... But thanks for the concern....Aynesworth's story is partly part true but essentially false. He wants you to believe the whole thing was fabricated. It wasn't. A number was to a) get even with the FBI, which was tapping phones and b) to prove it. Lonnie is a friend of mine. I'm taking the liberty of telling him this next time he's here, which won't be until after the holidays, which he is spending with his children and grandchildren...Sorry you didn't have time to get here so I could have dued you in on so much I can't by mail, less know, and so you could have satisfied yourself. This is one of those real tricky areas in which I urge extreme caution. It has been misused and has backfired in Congress because the self-ppomoters and self-seekers abd irresponsible have mesmerized the uninformed Congress.PLEASE believe me, as your own experience ought indicate, there is no likelihood of a one-shot story accomplishing anything and the succession of them is depressing the Congress. Besides, an unsupported story would not be credited. There was recently an old New Orleans friend of mine who testified despite my warning in advance. Not a word has been heard. Behind closed doors and his memory had failed him. He named wrong man. Separately it got major TV attention and flopped there. Not one reporter of all those I know asked if I'd come accross that story...Now Alba is a different matter and you may well have substance there. I can't tell another writer not to write but I'd hope you could be patient with this and also let me check it. At first, before I learned they were incompetent, I trusted the Garrisons on having checked him out and gotten everything. Only after it was no longer possible for me to get there did I start other checking involving those rifle magazines. I've forgotten the whole story but there is an involvement. I have a file, unless I've loaned it.As I recall it the G office said it was no more than that the FBI and Secret Service used his garage and LHO goofed off there. Now when I see your stuff I can take steps to get suppressed reports of Alba interviews. Agree to approach?...Of all the things that bug me the most troubling is not being able to get back to writing Agent Oswald. I wrote 5-6 chapters 5 or more years ago. Everybody of the reasonable ones wants me to do this and I do but there is no help, even on filing or other simple matters. Talk is cheap for those with the means they hang onto or use wrongly. But I will and it won't be too long. The sales of PM will be dropping and I'll be spending less time packaging. I've never really stopped working on it. Only the writing. I'm always after new info, like in those ExSess suits. (I've filed for the rest that's withheld.) I'm after the CIA in several ways and I'm always getting new bits and pieces hidden in multitudinous pages...I really think the feds are more hungup on this than on their covering up...They have been cautious and simultaneously engaged in unperceived internecine warfare over it. I have the proof and how far back it started. Immediately! I'll have at least a chapter on this alone on what I now have and I expect more. It is tedious work. I've been working on one bit for 6 months. But without a complete package, such as is in PM, it has no chance. And I've put an enormous amount together...Sorry I can't write much. Have to keep legs up and it is uncomfortable straddling a table that is my lap. I look forward to what you've learned. If Alba said what seems not to make sense or mentioned any names not meaningful to you please give this to me also. It might fit something I don't know.

None of my N.O. work was on Shaw. All was on Oswald one way or another. I learned much and Garrison never really got into any of it. Again I can't begin to give you a book in a letter but in time there will be the book and if there is no good shot in Congress before then I'd like to use it then. Don't misread the headlines. The current situation in Congress is very bad. Ruinous. Not one committee is really serious. They want headlines, personal political publicity and as little else as they can survive. I've made a start in a different direction there and I'm hoping something may come of it. The feds are feeling and reacting to that pressure and I've involved the first of other Members. The media is unwilling and often suppresses the most solid and important stories On this subject in particular. You should have gone through my experiences trying to get any paper to consider PM. The only way around this worked: I held a press conference to announce it and gave the reporters another story to write in which it was mentioned: my challenge to those I called perjurers and suborners, to appear under oath with me before any Congressional committee. A major magazine that made a top-level policy decision overruling a favorable editorial recommendation has instead hired me as a consultant on the chickenshit they'll use in some months and they'll then use some of this. That is how bad it is and all the cheap shot have brought it to pass. Without them this could have succeeded. They did not create the situation. They exploited it. But don't be discouraged. We'll do it yet. Have a good holiday, good year. HW